



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF THE  
REGIONAL  
ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. David A. Condon  
Mayor, City of Spokane  
808 W. Spokane Falls Boulevard  
Spokane, Washington 99201-3335

Dear Mr. Condon:

Thank you for your letter dated February 7, 2017, addressed to Mr. Donald Benton, Senior White House Adviser for the EPA Transition, and Mr. Doug Ericksen, Communications Director for the EPA Transition. The issues raised in your February letter are similar to those raised in a December 22, 2016, letter from you to the former Regional Administrator Dennis McLerran, which Mr. McLerran responded to on January 19, 2017. I appreciate you taking the time to express your concerns again regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) partial approval and partial disapproval of Washington Department of Ecology's (Ecology's) water quality standards, and the EPA's corresponding federal rule promulgating human health criteria for Washington.

In response to your latest letter, the EPA would like to offer the Mayor's office a meeting with EPA Region 10 and EPA Headquarters to discuss your concerns. Specifically, Dan Opalski, the Region 10 Acting Deputy Regional Administrator, and Michael Shapiro, the Office of Water Acting Assistant Administrator, are available to meet with you. The scheduler for EPA Region 10's Regional Administrator's Office will contact your office shortly to schedule this meeting.

In the meantime, the EPA will continue to offer technical support to Ecology as they implement the human health criteria and their other Clean Water Act programs, including use of the newly applicable implementation tools that the EPA approved in November 2016. The EPA also continues to be engaged with Ecology and others in and around the Spokane area, including regularly participating in the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force (Task Force) meetings. The EPA water quality standards staff recently attended the Task Force's January 25, 2017, meeting to discuss the EPA's November 2016 actions and, specifically, the newly applicable PCB criteria. The EPA supports and commends the Task Force's collaborative efforts to develop a comprehensive plan to address PCB contamination in the Spokane River area. The EPA intends to remain involved in the Task Force meetings.

Again, thank you for contacting the EPA and, as noted previously, the EPA is very supportive of the City of Spokane and Ecology's work on this topic. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or have your staff contact Daniel D. Opalski.

You can reach Dan by phone at (206) 553-1855 or by email at [opalski.dan@epa.gov](mailto:opalski.dan@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

Michelle L. Pirzadeh  
Acting Regional Administrator